

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please revise the specification as follows:

On page 6, please revise the paragraph beginning on line 8 as follows:

In the cell-based and cell-free reporter gene assays described herein, the alteration in reporter gene expression or activity relative to a previously determined reference range, or to the expression or activity of the reporter gene in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (*e.g.*, a negative control) indicates that a particular compound modulates premature translation termination and/or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay. In particular, ~~a decrease~~ an increase in reporter gene expression or activity relative to a previously determined reference range, or to the expression in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (*e.g.*, a negative control) may, depending upon the parameters of the reporter gene assay, indicate that a particular compound reduces or suppresses premature translation termination and/or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay. In contrast, ~~an increase~~ a decrease in reporter gene expression or activity relative to a previously determined reference range, or to the expression in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (*e.g.*, a negative control) may, depending upon the parameters of the reporter gene-based assay, indicate that a particular compound enhances premature translation termination and/or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay.

On page 50, please revise the paragraph beginning on line 27 as follows:

The alteration in reporter gene expression and/or activity in the reporter gene cell-based assays relative to a previously determined reference range, or to the expression or activity of the reporter gene in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (*e.g.*, a negative control such as phosphate buffered saline) indicates that a particular compound modulates premature translation termination and/or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay. In particular, ~~a decrease~~ an increase in reporter gene expression or activity relative to a previously determined reference range, or to the expression in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (*e.g.*, a negative control) may, depending upon the parameters of the reporter gene assay, indicate that a particular compound reduces or suppresses premature translation termination and/or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay. In contrast, ~~an increase~~ a decrease in reporter gene expression or activity relative to a previously determined reference range, or to the expression in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (*e.g.*, a negative control) may, depending upon the

parameters of the reporter gene-based assay, indicate that a particular compound enhances premature translation termination and/or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay.

On page 56, please revise the paragraph beginning on line 10 as follows:

In the cell-free reporter gene assays described herein, the alteration in reporter gene expression or activity relative to a previously determined reference range, or to the expression or activity of the reporter gene in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (e.g., a negative control) indicates that a particular compound modulates premature translation termination and/or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay. In particular, a ~~decrease~~ an increase in reporter gene expression or activity relative to a previously determined reference range, or to the expression in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (e.g., a negative control) may, depending upon the parameters of the reporter gene assay, indicate that a particular compound reduces or suppresses premature translation termination and/or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay. In contrast, ~~an increase~~ a decrease in reporter gene expression or activity relative to a previously determined reference range, or to the expression in the absence of the compound or the presence of an appropriate control (e.g., a negative control) may, depending upon the parameters of the reporter gene-based assay, indicate that a particular compound enhances premature translation termination and/or nonsense-mediated mRNA decay.